

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

MAY 2014

THE MINISTRY MOMENT:

by: John Rock

She looks me deep in the eyes with the emotion that only the eyes can communicate. She thanks me with the words of her feelings and then she kisses my hand as though I have a ring on it. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Lkiw_YaLuo) - it weirds me out a bit. However, the other day I was thinking on this and I realized that there is no other way for her to express appreciation to me. She tells me the words of her appreciation but words are often the cheap expressions of reality and she knows it.

How do you and I communicate our own appreciation when words are not enough? I generally give money as though this action is any less cheap now days. While the act of kissing the hand does have a lot of negative connotation in my mind I realize that it is a genuine act of appreciation, one that is genuine, and I should not be weirded out. ~

Practically every week the same person asks me to lead the song Amazing Grace. He tells me that he loves that song because he is such a “wretch”. During the service it was brought up how we are “new creations” when we place our faith in Christ: “The old has come, the new has gone.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) This started a discussion about how the person is NOT a wretch but rather a New Creation in Christ. We talked about how the evil one wants him to wallow in the memories of his past sins rather than step out into the new life of faith in Christ. It was a powerful time for his soul. After the service he thanked me for talking about our new nature in Christ. I was pleased that he was touched; now we’ll see if he continues to ask for “Amazing Grace”.

~ John

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Davies

Well, Spring is finally here in Michigan! After months of snow, ice and the “Polar Vortex”, we can finally look forward to green grass, new flowers and sunshine! With the seasons changing we can also expect severe weather and the damage it can cause. The residents we serve don’t take environmental changes and emergency situations very well, so please join us in praying for their safety and mental well-being as we pray for God to watch over you and your family as well!

In one of our homes, they have finally filled 2 beds that have been empty for some time. This is great news to the other residents there, who have looked forward to sharing their living space with new people. One of them was able to join us for services last week, but the other, although pleasant when we speak with her, continues to stay in her

room. We did notice that she keeps the door open during the service, which is promising. Please pray that the Lord speaks to these ladies, that they adjust to their new setting and that God shines His light and love through us to them.

How can we pray for you? Praying is the most powerful thing one can do for another Christian. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can pray for you. Email us at jenn@thesharing.org

If you would like to be taken off of this Prayer Partner list and no longer receive these monthly letters, please email us at info@thesharing.org and let us know.

We pray that you are blessed and that God is doing wonders in your life!

Drew and Jenn Davies

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Rocks

Well, let me start by answering some of the open-ended questions that I left you with from last month’s prayer letter.

First, An Expansion Plan...

We are in the process of expanding the reach of the ministry. We will be taking on new missionaries to serve Adult Foster Care homes in their own communities. The

target missionaries will be local pastors and retirees. Local pastors have always been a target but the motivation has not been there for them to expand into this ministry over their other ministry opportunities. It dawned on me that many local pastors are just trying to be faithful to their present calls as well as working part time to help support their families. What we will do is offer pastors a \$50 stipend for each home that they serve – this in lieu of passing a plate. The stipend will cover their mileage and their other expenses, the nights of being called to be present at a death bed or hospital visits, and it might even

leave a little for their lunch. The stipend is not much but it is something. The same offer of the stipend will go to the retiree who desires to adopt a home and do ministry rather than become a greeter at a local mega-mart some place.

I've been thinking a lot about my plan for the ministry should my health fail me. I fell twice this past winter (which is new for me) and I have noticed that my ability to walk has become less and less reliable. I am not normally the superstitious type but just this week I received a postcard from an auction house in Akron, OH advertising two churches that were foreclosed and are now being auctioned off. It is a little weird that I should receive an auction notice from Akron (though not completely as I do maintain financial books for a company in Akron) the weird part is that the second church on the listing is the church that I was baptized in when I lived in Akron in 1995. The superstitious part of me wonders if this is not somehow a weird confirmation that *my* ministry is changing. It may mean nothing at all but the timing of it just strikes me as funny.

Anyway, with this plan we hope to expand the reach of the ministry and increase the number of homes that are presently served by us (<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zLosRlzBJkX4.kGROFiJDNOQ8>). Please pray that we begin to see people interested in adopting their own local AFC home and that we are able to maintain this stipend levels.

Second, My New Employment...

In April I began a new company. It is in the process of getting up and going and it is taking a little longer than I had first thought but it is profitable. I have been able to forgo my monthly paycheck from the ministry for the past two months. With the funds that will not be used to support my family I plan to use to expand the ministry and offer the stipends to new missionaries.

I am elated about the new business venture as I did not know how on earth I could support my family with my failing physical health or how I could get off the ministry dime and actually use the funds for expanding the our reach. This new effort is proving to be the answer to my prayers. Please join me in prayer for the continued success of this new venture, it is revealing unforeseen hurdles but it is remaining to be worth the while.

Finally, I have met with a gentleman who is interested in serving an AFC home in his own area. He will be joining me at services this coming week to get a feel for it. We have talked theological guidelines, he still has to submit to a background check, our board has to approve him, and a home has to open their doors to him. Please pray with us that God would provide in all these situations if it be His will.

In His Mighty Hands!

John

~ This was given to me by my grandmother and I thought you might enjoy it.

Who Is A Senior Citizen? (Author unknown)

A senior citizen is one who was here before the pill and the population explosion. We were here before television, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, and Frisbees.

We predate frozen foods, nylon, dacos, xerex, fluorescent lights, credit cards, ball point pens, word processors and computers. We managed before there were pantyhose, drip-dry cloths, clothes dryers, electric blankets, or freezers. We were before yogurt, plastic bags, vitamin pills, disposable diapers, and before men wore long hair and earrings, and women wore tuxedos.

In our days, bunnies were small rabbits, and rabbits were NOT Volkswagens. McDonald's was unheard of and fast food was what you ate during Lent. Grass was for mowing, Coke was a refreshing carbonated beverage, and pot was something you cooked in. We got married first and then lived together. We recognized the difference in abuse and discipline and sin was sin, rather than just "making poor choices".

I guess we were just quaint.

PS. Please forgive me any gross grammatical or punctuation errors – my editor was out of town. ;-))